(c) Yes, the Regional Centre will be the first of its kind in the region with a networked inter-disciplinary education system linking engineering, medicine and biology as related to biotechnology. A functional research milieu is a key for excellence in education, therefore research activities and training of scientists and of Ph. D scholars will be an integral part of education in biotechnology.

(d) The Regional Centre's initial resources shall derive from catalytic funds allotted by the Government of India; and for start-up activities, by the UNESCO, as well as such contributions as it may receive from other Member States of UNESCO within this region for the establishment of a core fund. The Government of India shall provide appropriate office space, equipment and facilities, salaries of staff, costs of utilities, maintenance, expenses for studies, training, publication activities, holding meetings of the Board of Governors etc. Apart from catalytic support for start-up activities of the Centre, the UNESCO shall provide funds for concrete activities/projects of the Centre, if these are in line with UNESCO: programme priorities and also provide linkages. The Centre will encourage international government and non-governmental financial entities, as well as Member states of the UNESCO to provide financial and technical assistance.

(e) The permanent office and other facilities of the Centre are likely to be set up within a period of 3 years from the start of construction. In the interim, it is proposed to start its activities through hired premises within one year of the financial sanction of the Centre's budget.

Inventions by Scientists

†2219. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government to promtoe commercial use of new inventions by scientists and to check brain-drain from the country;

(b) whether Government are formulating a scheme to ensure royalty on commercial use of inventions by the scientists; and

(c) if so, by when the said scheme would be introduced?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Several schemes have been put in place by the Government to allow commercialization of technological and scientific research being carried out by Indian science institutes and universities by providing infrastructural and operational support through various schemes and incentives. With increased emphasis on public-private partnership in technology development, the Government, through schemes of Technology Development Board (TDB), New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) and Drug & Development Promotion Board (DDPB), provides incentives to commercialize inventions, as these schemes take adequate care to ensure that inventions from scientific institutions and universities become an important component of the schemes. Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences (Department of Ocean Development) allow institutions and universities implementing projects awarded by them to own intellectual property rights emanating from such projects and retain benefits and earnings accrued from patents. Institutions may determine the share of inventors and other persons from actual earnings. However, such share shall be limited to one-third of the actual earnings. Similar schemes are available to the scientists from CSIR and ICAR.

The Government has set up specialized cells/contents/units in its different departments and agencies which provide technical, financial and legal help to scientists for protecting their inventive work in India and other countries. Intellectual property rights, so generated, are also maintained by these cells/centres/units. The ownership of such patents resides with the concerned institutions and the scientists' names appear as inventors in the patent document Prominent among the Government Departments/ agencies are: Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Department of Atomic Energy, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ISRO, Indian Council of Forest Research. In addition, many awards and fellowships have been instituted for recognizing meritorious scientists and giving them incentives to take on R&D projects. There are tax incentives available for commercializing indigenously-developed technology.